

Rite of Christian Burial

Funeral Preparation

Booklet



St. Francis of Assisi Church

114 Mt. Vernon Street, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660

201-641-6464

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
114 Mt. Vernon Street, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660
201.641.6464 szeuner@stfrancisrp.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Parish of St. Francis of Assisi extends our deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved one. Our prayers are with you and your family for the Holy Spirit to console and strengthen you during this difficult time.

As Roman Catholics, we believe that death is a transition not an end, "*Life is changed not taken away*". We believe in the joyful hope of eternal life as Jesus Christ rose from the dead. It is in this spirit that we celebrate the funeral liturgy. In the waters of Baptism, we are joined with Christ, and we will continue this transition to the Kingdom of Heaven and live forever with God.

The enclosed booklet is intended to provide information and guidelines for the funeral liturgy. You may choose readings, prayers, and hymns in honor of your loved one. A parish Bereavement Minister, including the Music Director, will be able to help you with suggestions, if you need assistance.

In memory of your loved one, you and your family will be invited to attend a special All Soul's Mass. There will be additional information forwarded to you for this sacred Mass.

Our Priests, Deacon and Bereavement Minister are available to provide future support to you and family members so please so not hesitate to call us.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Fernando E. Guillen
Administrator

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 114 Mt. Vernon Street, Ridgely Park, New Jersey 07660

201.641.6464 szeuner@stfrancisnj.org

Planning Sheet

Detach Perforated Planning Sheet and Return to the Funeral Director

Please Print Information

Name of Deceased _____ Mass Date _____ Time _____

Entrance Hymn _____

First Reading (Old Testament) _____

Name of First Reader _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Second Reading (New Testament) _____

Name of Second Reader _____

The Priest will select (Gospel Acclamation; Gospel; Homily)

Presentation Hymn _____

Names of Presentation of the gifts brought to the altar _____ and _____

Names of flower bearers, if requested _____ and _____

Communion Hymn _____

Final Commendation _____

Recessional Hymn _____

Hymns for the Rite of Christian Burial

Please select one from each category and include on the Planning Sheet

ENTRANCE

- Morning Has Broken
- Amazing Grace
- Here I Am Lord
- On Eagle's Wing

- En Sus Alas
- Dale el Descanso, Senor
- A qui Estoy Senor

PSALM

- Psalm 23: Shepherd Me, O God
- Psalm 91: Be with Me Lord

- Salmo 30: Padre, en Tus Manos
- Salmo 22: El Senor es Mi Pastor

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

- In The Arms of God (Tony Alonso)
- Eye Has Not Seen
- Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod)
- Prayer of St. Francis
- We Remember
- Come To Me
- I Have Loved You
- Blest Are They

- Virgen Mambisa
- Entre Tus Manos
- Madre, Oyeme
- Pescador de Hombres

FINAL COMMENDATION

- Song of Farewell
- Go with God
- Go in Peace (Sarah Hart)
- I Know That My Redeemer Lives

- Reciban Su Alma
- Cancion de Despedida We Remember

COMMUNION

- Panis Angelicus (Lambillotte)
- Ave Maria (Schubert)
- Ave Maria (Caccinil/Vavilov)
- One Bread, One Body
- Here I Am Lord

- Eres Tu Jesus
- Pan De Vida

RECESSION

- The Hand Of God Shall Hold You
- Fly Like A Bird
- Be Not Afraid
- May the Road Rise Up To Meet You

- La Muerte No Es el Final
- Que Los Angeles Te Lleven al Paraiso

The Music Director is available at 201.641.6464 to assist with selection, if needed.

General Reflection

The Church celebrates Christ's Paschal Mystery at the Funeral Mass. Those who were made one with Christ in Baptism may pass from death to life with Him. The deceased whose body was once washed in Baptism, anointed with the oil of chrism, and fed the Bread of Life once again returns to the Baptismal font where the coffin will be sprinkled with holy water and covered a large white pall.

The Rite of the Church

The Rite of Christian Burial will take place in three important parts:

1. The Wake Service

This will take place during visiting hours at the funeral home. A Priest, Deacon, or Funeral Director will lead this Prayer Service. A family member or friend may wish to share a special memory, as in a eulogy.

2. The Funeral Liturgy

The most important part of the celebration of Christian Burial is the Funeral Mass. The remains, whether body or ashes, are honored by being brought to Church. During the Funeral Liturgy the life of your loved one is celebrated in the same way of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

3. The Committal

At the conclusion of the Mass of Christian Burial a Priest, Deacon or the Funeral Director will accompany the funeral procession to the cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium.

Eulogy

Should a family member or friend wish to speak in memory of your loved one, as in a eulogy, the Funeral Rite allows for the tribute to take place prior to the Prayer of Commendation at the cemetery, mausoleum or columbarium. In the Archdiocese of Newark, no eulogies are to take place within the context of the Mass.

Crematorium

The proper disposition of the body at a crematorium is not a Liturgical Rite, therefore no clergy will accompany the body for the trip. Once the family receives the cremains (ashes) of their loved one and the interment in a grave or columbarium niche has been determined, a Priest, Deacon or Funeral Director may gather with the family to say the Prayers of Committal and bless the place of final rest.

Planning the Funeral Liturgy

The most beautiful part of the Funeral Liturgy is the celebration of your loved one in the Church. Your family may personalize the Mass by choosing the Scripture readings and hymns. When making your selections there should be one reading from the Old Testament (this is the first reading), a Responsorial Psalm, and a New Testament reading (this is the second reading). The enclosed *Planning Sheet* must be completed and returned to the Funeral Director or the church with your choices. Should you forego making personal choices during this difficult time, the Priest and Music Director will make selections on your behalf.

Place and Time of the Funeral Liturgy

With the exception of Sundays, Holy Days, and Holy Week a funeral may be celebrated on any day of the week. A Funeral Mass is always celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Music

Music is an important part of Catholic worship. A professional organist and singer will be provided by the Church. Our Music Director can assist you with music selections, if you wish. Secular music may not be played at a Funeral Liturgy. A list of the hymns or music frequently selected are included on *page 2* of this booklet. Please select one hymn from each section (Entrance, Preparation of the Gifts, Communion, Psalm, Final Commendations, Recession) and include on the *Planning Sheet*.

Readings

Please select one Old Testament reading and one New Testament Reading from the booklet selection found on *page 6 - 13*. The readings selected should have some meaning to you and reflect the life of your loved one. Once the choices are made, please mark the appropriate section on the *Planning Sheet* with the readings selections (page 6).

If you wish, you may select two readers to read the passages at Mass. The names of the readers must be included on the *Planning Sheet*, and the priest will invite them to do the readings at the appropriate time during the Mass. The Responsorial Psalm is selected by the family and our Music Director or cantor will sing the Psalm at Mass..

Presentation of the Gifts

In honor of the deceased two family members or close friends may present the gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory time of the Mass (more than two may participate, if requested. Two individuals to present the gifts and the other individuals to place a flower on the casket). The names of the gift bearers must be indicated on the *Planning Sheet* in the appropriate section. The Priest or Funeral Director will direct the gift bearers to present the gifts at the appropriate time of the Mass.

Personal Notes

If you wish to provide a few personal comments about the deceased to assist the Celebrant in making his homily more personal, you can provide this information on a separate sheet along with the *Planning Sheet*.

Old Testament Readings

Select one Old Testament Reading and include on *Planning Sheet*, page 1, along with the name of the reader.



“The lily is a beautiful representation of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They grow from a bulb that is buried and then bloom into life.”

Old Testament Readings

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs (31:10-31)

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands.
Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar.
She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household.
She picks out a field to purchase. out of her earnings. she plants a vineyard.
She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms.
She enjoys the success of her dealings. at night her lamp is undimmed.
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor and extends her arms to the needy.
She fears not the snow for her household. All her charges are doubly clothed.
She makes her own coverlets, fine linen and purple are her clothing.
Her husband is prominent at the city gates and he sits with the elders of the land.
She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts.
She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kind counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household and eats not her food in idleness.
Her children rise and praise her, Her husband, too, extols her.
Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting. The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The Word of The Lord

A Reading from the Book of Proverbs (31:10-13-20, 25-31)

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her has a unfailing prize
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
She reaches out her hands to the poor and extends her arms to the needy.
She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come.
She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel.
She watches the conduct of her household and eats not her food in idleness.
Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her.
Many are the woman of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward for her labors, and let her work praise her at the city gates.

The Word of The Lord

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-6,9)

The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction, but they are in peace.
For, if before us they be punished. Yet is their hope full of immortality. Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offering he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love; because grace and mercy are with His holy ones, and His care is with His elect.

The Word of The Lord

Old Testament Readings

A Reading from the Book of Wisdoms (4:7-15)

The just man, though he dies early, shall be at rest for the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years.

Rather, understanding the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age.

He who pleased God was loved; he who lives among sinners was transported, snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his or deceit beguile his soul.

For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right, and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind.

Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to The Lord, therefore, He sped him out of the midst of the wickedness, nor did they take this into account.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (25:6a, 7-9)

On this mountain the Lord of Hosts will provide for all people.

On this mountain He will destroy the veil that veils all people, the web that is woven over all nations; He will destroy death forever.

The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach from His people He will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken.

On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!"

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Sirach (2:1-9)

My son, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials.

Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity.

Cling to Him, forsake Him not; thus, will your future be great.

Accept whatever befalls you. In crushing misfortune be patient, for in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation.

Trust God and He will help you; make straight your ways and hope in Him.

You who fear the Lord; wait for His mercy, turn not away lest you fall.

You who fear the Lord, trust Him and your reward will not be lost.

You who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (35:3-6, 10)

Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak. Say to those whose hearts are frightened, be strong, fear not!

Here is your God, He comes with vindication, with divine recompense he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, The ears of the deaf be cleared.

Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the Tongue of the dumb will sing.

Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, Crowned with everlasting joy.

They will meet the joy and gladness, Sorrow and mourning will flee.

The Word of The Lord.

Old Testament Readings

A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-8, 11)

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the
heavens.

A time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh.

a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and a time to gather
them.

A time to embrace, and a time to be far from
embraces.

A time to seek and a time to lose; a time to
keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate, a time of
war, and a time of peace.

He has made everything appropriate to its
time, and has put timelessness into their hearts,
without men's ever discovering from
beginning to end, the work which God has
done.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (7:7-11)

Therefore, I prayed, and prudence was given
to me. I pleaded, and the Spirit of Wisdom
came to me. I preferred her to scepter and
throne and deemed riches nothing in
comparison with her.

Nor did I liken any priceless gem to her
because all god, in view of her, is a little
sand, and before her, silver is to be
accounted mire. Beyond health and
comeliness, I loved her, and I chose to have
her rather than the light because the splendor
of her never yields to sleep.

Yet all good things together come to me in
her company, and countless riches at her
hands.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:17-26)

My soul is deprived of peace. I have
forgotten what happiness is. I tell myself
my future is lost, all that I hoped for from
the Lord.

The thought of my homeless poverty is
wormwood and gall. Remembering it over
and over leaves my soul downcast within
me. But I will call this to mind, as my
reason to have hope.

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted.
His mercies are not spent. They are
renewed each morning, so great is His
faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says
my soul, therefore, will I hope in Him.

Good is the Lord to one who waits for him,
to the soul that's seeks Him.

It is good to hope in silence for the saving
help of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Job (19:23- 27)

Oh, would that my words were written
down.

Would that they were inscribed in a record:
That with an iron chisel and with lead they
were cut in the rock forever.

But as for me, I know that my vindicator
lives, and that He will at last sent forth upon
the dust; whom I myself shall see.

My own eyes, not another's, shall behold
him.

The Word of The Lord.

New Testament Readings

Select one New Testament Reading and include on *Planning Sheet*, page 1, along with the name of the reader.



“The trumpet shaped blooms of lilies are compared to the trumpets of angels announcing important events.”

New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (5:5-11)

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For when we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly at the time God chose.

Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.

But God proves His love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

How much more then, since we are now justified by His blood, will we be saved through Him from the wrath.

Indeed, if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, how much more, once reconciled, will be saved by His life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-4, 8-9)

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (8:31b-35, 37-39)

If God is for us, who can be against us? Certainly not God, who did not even keep back His own Son, but offered Him for us all.

He gave us His Son; will He not also freely give us all things?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through Him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor power, nor height, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (14:7-9, 10b-12)

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For as we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.

For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, we all will give an account of ourselves to God.

The Word of The Lord.

New Testament Readings

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (8:14-18)

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry “Abba”, Father! The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. And if children, then heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (5:1, 6-10)

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. So, we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please Him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:20-23)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (15:51-57)

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of any eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality, and when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, oh death, is your victory?
Where, oh Death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of The Lord.

New Testament Readings

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians (4:4-9)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all the Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and see in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18)

We do not want you to be unaware brothers and sisters about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself, with a word of command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy (4:6-8)

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the last judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but to all who have longed for His appearance.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (1:3-9)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, in his great mercy, gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading; kept in heaven for you, who, by the power of God, are safeguarded through faith to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable, even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen Him, you love Him. Even though you do not see Him now, yet believe in Him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of The Lord.

New Testament Readings

A Reading from the Book of Revelations (14:13)

I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes, said the Spirit, let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them".

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation (21:1-5a, 6b-7)

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth have passed away, and the sea was no more, I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I heard a loud voice from the throne saying:

"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away".

The one who sat on the throne said:

"Behold, I make all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son".

The Word of The Lord.

St. Francis of Assisi Church



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“The lily is one of the most common funeral flowers, symbolizing beauty, spirituality and hope.”

Please detach perforated Planning Sheet, page 1, and return to the Funeral Director today.